PUPIL TRANSPORTATION NEWS

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to all the new directors who have joined us this year. There have been many changes and with change comes a lot of learning and adapting. Be sure to reach out to fellow directors for assistance. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and your fellow directors are here to help. Don't be afraid to ask questions and be sure to attend as many trainings and conferences as you can as they are provided. Available trainings and conferences will be posted in the newsletter and are sent to your work email address. There is also a SharePoint site set up for directors with PowerPoint trainings and information. Be sure your WAAPOC has updated the "Open House" directory on the KDE website and then email Elisa Hanley. She will make sure you are added to the transportation contact list.

Director training class

KDE will provide a training for directors on March 13. EILA credit will be available.

The class will go through and discuss the Inspector Manual. Be sure to print a copy of the Inspector Manual and bring it to class to follow along.

By attending this class and participating in the conversation, you will gain knowledge and understanding, as well as what KDE expects – and what directors should expect – of the inspectors.

Sign up at eventbrite.com. You do NOT need to print the class confirmation. There is a limit of 75 participants.

Email Elisa Hanley or call her at (502) 564-5279, ext. 4406 with any questions.

Reporting stop-arm violations

Each quarter, Elisa Hanley contacts the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and requests a report of all the stop-arm violations that have been reported. When this information is sent out to districts, please verify the numbers are correct. If the numbers are incorrect, please contact the local county attorney and inquire further. Violations may be reported incorrectly or using a different code.

As you may know, a student was hit in Hardin County on Jan. 25. This is not a situation we want to continue to see happening. Luckily, the student is fine.

Please continue to do your part and make those reports. Make them every time to inform law enforcement there is a problem. Don't use the old adage of, "They won't do anything, so why should I report it?" Nothing will change with that attitude. It is extremely important to make the reports. As stated in previous communications, data is needed to back up the complaints.

It has been noted that there is a very high number of dismissed cases. Don't let this discourage your district. There is a team that is doing their best to address it with those who have the decision-making power.

A committee of directors is reaching out to county attorneys, law enforcement, judges and whomever else they can talk to in order to address the issues being seen.

People are listening, so keep doing your part.

Stop-arm violation survey

While school buses remain incredibly safe, we all know that students are most vulnerable when they are outside the bus in the "danger zone." Kentucky is assisting the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) in coordinating a national survey to document illegal passing of school buses. The data will help improve safety countermeasures at the state and national level.

KDE is asking for your assistance. On April 25, we are asking that volunteers are on each of your district's school buses observe and report any instances of motorists illegally passing the school buses.

Even buses that have no "pass-bys" on the day of the survey should turn in the form to KDE in order to provide the most accurate data possible. If all of your buses are unable to participate, please have as many as possible do so.

The volunteers can be reliable students, monitors, teachers, parents, et cetera. This survey should be done during each of the runs for the day. The total number of illegal pass-bys for each district will be tallied and reported nationally.

Last year, only had 34 school districts of the 169 that provide transportation participated. We need many more to participate. We share this data with many sources.

See the email that was sent to you in January. If you did not receive it or have concerns about the survey, email Elisa Hanley or call her at (502) 564-5279, ext. 4406.

CDL reminder – IMPORTANT

Several districts are still sending documents to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) email address. These documents are not being processed. KYTC implemented a new system in the fall in which drivers or school districts must enter the data and upload documents into the Kentucky One Stop Business Portal. This requires a login and password that the user creates. The portal is to be used for any new driver or any driver who needs to be updated or to include endorsements, renewals, medical cards, applications and self-certifications. Once an item is uploaded, you MUST email kytc.cdlschoolbus@ky.gov to let them know so the documents can be expedited. If an email is not sent to the inbox, it may take up to 30 days to process.

Any person utilizing this system must review the training documents found on KYTC's website. This is not an option. KDE has no access to this site or its contents. KYTC will contact the person who submits the documents directly if there are any issues.

If you have trouble creating or using your account, please review the FAQs. If you still have questions, please call (502) 782-8930 or email kybos.support@ky.gov.

School bus pilots

In Kentucky, before most items are added to a school bus, they are piloted by school districts for effectiveness. These items are brought to KDE by transportation directors. Not all items make it to our buses, and sometimes they get revisited in the future.

Before requesting to perform a pilot, please do some research and contact KDE regarding the possibility of starting a pilot. If approved, KDE will provide your school district with a letter to conduct the pilot.

Before requesting to perform a pilot, each district must ensure there is no cost to the district for the duration of the pilot, which is typically one year or more. It is in our specifications that this is a requirement.

After the pilot, the school may send the items back to the vendor or purchase the piloted item if it is approved to be added to school buses.

Districts will be required to provide a detailed report and recommendation to KDE once the pilot is completed. The information from the report may be presented to the Kentucky Board of Education if they ask for it.

Thank you to all districts that have piloted items in the past to help make our school buses safer.

Inventory

As a reminder, the inventory list provided to KDE for SEEK purposes should only contain school buses that are being used to transport students. If a district has school buses being used for parts, hauling band equipment with no passengers but the driver, or are being surplused and there is no possibility of being used to transport students, they should not be on the KDE inventory. Discuss with your insurance company about changing or removing the buses from your insurance. This may save the district money and better align the data KDE has.

Although KDE only collects inventory data once a year, each district should maintain its own listing and report it in the fall. You do not need to wait for reporting time to remove buses from your fleet.

If you have questions, email Carl Meehan or call him at (502) 564-5279, ext. 4442

Kentucky School Bus Safety Poster Contest

The school bus safety contest is now open. The theme this year is "My School Bus, The Safest Form of School Transportation." The theme on the poster must be exactly as shown, including the punctuation. Posters must be postmarked to KDE by May 1. You do not have to wait until May to send them in.

There are five categories, including computer-aided drawing (CAD) and special education (grades K-12). Please share with all of your art teachers, elementary teachers and CAD teachers. If you have students at Kentucky School for the Blind or Kentucky School for the Deaf, they may also participate. This is a great activity for school bus safety training!

In 2017, there were only three posters from Kentucky sent to the national level. We would love to see posters from all categories. Madisyn Kelley of Campbell County won 1st place and $250 at the national level last year for her poster.

Posters are judged by all those who attend the trade shows during the Kentucky Association for Pupil Transportation (KAPT) and the Student Transportation Association of Kentucky (STAK) summer conferences.

For the complete rules, visit the contest page on KDE's website. You may also email Elisa Hanley or call her at (502) 564-5279, ext. 4406.

Award nominations

What better way is there for directors to show appreciation to their staff? Nominate them for state recognized awards. Allow supervisors and staff to nominate each other for the awards below.

Kentucky Association for Pupil Transportation (KAPT)

The KAPT has opened its window to accept nominations for various transportation awards. There are nine categories in total. All nominations need to be submitted to John Odom by May 14. The KAPT awards come with a $500 cash prize and recognition at the KAPT summer leadership conference June 11-13 in Bowling Green.

Visit KAPT's website for additional information.

Student Transportation Association of Kentucky (STAK)

STAK has opened its window to accept nominations for various transportation awards. There are 13 categories in total. All nominations need to be submitted by April 15 at the awards page on STAK's website. The winners will receive recognition at the STAK conference banquet this summer in Louisville.

Visit STAK's website for additional information.

Conferences

Kentucky Technician Association (KYTA)

The Kentucky Technician Association (KYTA) summer conference is tentatively scheduled for June 6-8 at the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, 600 College Street Road, Elizabethtown.

The conference will include but is not limited to topics on electronic diagnostics, air disc brakes and emissions. The four-hour technician update will be instructed by Wayne Winters from Crittenden County.

Email David Garbrough for registration or other information.

There is only space available for 170 participants. Be sure to register as soon as possible. The full agenda will be sent out once it has been completed.

Kentucky Association for Pupil Transportation (KAPT)

The KAPT summer conference will be held June 11-13 at the Holiday Inn University Plaza Hotel in Bowling Green.

The conference will include Michael Shulter from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Warren County attorney and sheriff's office staff members to discuss stop-arm violations and accident reports.

Visit KAPT's website for the full agenda and registration information.

Student Transportation Association of Kentucky (STAK)

The STAK conference will be held June 18-21 at the Galt House in Louisville. The conference will theme is "Making a Difference." The keynote speaker will be Stacey Bess, an award-winning educator with great insight into the hearts of children in need.

Classes include topics such as training at the speed of change and helping make the pre-trip easier to teach, and there will be a director's round table. There will also be technician's classes to include the Cummins engine, getting the paperwork correct and dealing with "The Drivers."

Visit STAK's website for the full agenda and registration information.

Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC)

The SESPTC conference will be held July 8-11 in Tampa, Fla. The conference will include national updates from the National Transportation Safety Board, safety and security in transportation, hiring and working with millennials and the information regarding the aftermath of the November 2016 Chattanooga, Tenn. school bus accident.

Visit SESPTC's website for more information.

Scholarships

KAPT 2018-19 scholarship award program

This $1,000 education scholarship award will be awarded to four students entering college each school year. An applicant must be a public school student who will attend an accredited college, university or technical school. The scholarship award is made directly to the postsecondary school selected by the student and must be used in support of the student's 2018-19 school year tuition, books or fees. Visit KAPT's website for more information.

Buster Bynum Scholarship

The Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC) is making a one-time $2,500 scholarship available to one student in each of its 14 member Southeastern states, including Kentucky. To be eligible, a student must be a high school senior, have a parent or guardian employed in the public school pupil transportation field for at least the past three years (since Jan. 1, 2015) and be planning to attend a postsecondary educational institution in 2018. Completed applications should be submitted to the local district's supervisor/director of transportation or the local district's scholarship selection committee chairperson. Each school system will select a local winner and submit the winning application to Elisa Hanley at KDE postmarked by May 15. Visit KDEs transportation scholarships page for more information, including additional requirements and an application.

Contact Information

Elisa Hanley – Section Supervisor
(502) 564-5279 ext. 4406
elisa.hanley@education.ky.gov

John Wyatt – Training
(502) 564-5279 ext. 4421
john.wyatt@education.ky.gov

Monica Napier – Data Submission
(502) 564-5279 ext. 4436
monica.napier@education.ky.gov

Carl Meehan- Bus Specifications
(502) 564 5279 ext. 4406
Carl.Meehan@education.ky.gov

Shravanthi Raghavapuram – Analyst
(502) 564-5279 ext. 4426
Shravanthi.raghavapuram@education.ky.gov

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION
NEWS
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION